United Nations S/PV.5004

Security Council

Fifty-ninth year

Provisional

5004th meeting

Thursday, 15 July 2004, 1.40 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Motoc	(Romania)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Djeffal
	Angola	Mr. Antonio
	Benin	Mr. Zinsou
	Brazil	Mr. Tarrisse da Fontoura
	Chile	Mr. Llanos
	China	Mr. Cheng Jingye
	France	Mr. Floreani
	Germany	Mr. Pleuger
	Pakistan	Mr. Mahmood
	Philippines	Ms. Taguiang
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Spain	Mr. Oyarzún
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. King
	United States of America	Mr. Fendrick

Agenda

The situation in Afghanistan

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

04-42670 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 1.40 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Afghanistan

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Afghanistan, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Farhádi (Afghanistan) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

After consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council, taking note of the decision announced by the Joint Electoral Management Body (JEMB) established by the Afghan authorities, welcomes and supports the holding of the presidential election in Afghanistan on 9 October 2004. This election is a key requirement under the Bonn Agreement of December 2001 and represents a new milestone in the process of constructing a democratic, stable and prosperous Afghanistan.

"The Council further takes note of the decision of the JEMB to hold parliamentary elections in April 2005. The Council understands that technical and logistical reasons made it impossible, as reported by the Secretariat, to hold simultaneous presidential and parliamentary elections by September of this year. The Council stresses the importance of using the remaining months to ensure that the necessary preparations are completed and the conditions met for free and fair elections according to the JEMB's timetables.

"The Council calls upon the Afghan Government and the international community to maintain and intensify, ahead of the presidential and parliamentary elections, their efforts to strengthen the national army and national police, to accelerate the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process, and to support the Afghan Government in its strategy to eliminate opium production. The Council stresses the importance of accelerated progress on DDR in order to create a safer environment for the election process, including security for electoral staff and Afghan voters, to help ensure a free and credible outcome to the electoral process, and otherwise to help create a secure environment in which the rule of law is respected. The Council reiterates its call upon all eligible Afghans to fully participate in the registration and electoral processes for the presidential and parliamentary elections.

"The Security Council encourages Afghan authorities to enable an electoral process to provide for voter participation that is representative of the national demographics including women and refugees and, in this regard, calls for the determination of practical modalities for the registration and participation of the Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan in the ongoing Afghan electoral process.

"The Council acknowledges the commitment by NATO, Operation Enduring Freedom and Member States to assist in establishing a secure environment for the conduct of elections and calls upon the international community to further increase its security assistance to Afghanistan. The Council also acknowledges the intention of the European Union and bilateral donors to contribute to the conduct of free and fair elections and notes ongoing discussions within the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on a possible contribution in that context.

"The Security Council stresses the importance of providing the necessary funding for the timely implementation of the JEMB's timetables. It acknowledges the contribution of

the international donor community in support of the elections, calls upon donors to implement their pledges and encourages the international community to consider further commitments to meet the costs for elections as inclusive as possible.

"The Security Council reaffirms its full support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and reiterates the central and impartial role of the United Nations in the international efforts to assist the Afghan people in consolidating peace in Afghanistan and rebuilding their country.

"The Security Council will remain seized of the matter."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2004/25.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.45 p.m.